

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Melanie Haveman  
U.S. EPA (ww-16j)  
77 W. Jackson Blvd  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Ms. Haveman,

Please find below Triad's responses to the questions you posed in your e-mail to Kevin McGuire dated Thursday March 25, 2010.

EPA has reviewed the Triad Mining January, 2010 response to our information request dated October 29, 2010 regarding the Freelandville Mine.

We are requesting clarification on a few parts of the response.

1. How and when was the flow regime (ephemeral vs. intermittent or perennial) determined for the streams at the site.
  - Specifically, a portion of Stream Segment WFD01S is identified as a dashed line on the USGS topo map, and it appears to be fed by a farm pond, which could provide additional hydrology. There are other farm pond fed streams within the S-311 permit boundary that appeared to be intermittent based on that hydrologic alteration.

The flow regime for stream segment WFPD01S was identified as an ephemeral stream by our consultant Land Management Consultants (LMA) approximately on June 7, 2007. This particular stream had been impacted upstream of 10+82 prior to the field investigation. To assess the stream, LMA used old aerial photos in conjunction with their evaluation of the unaffected downstream portions of the stream as exhibited in images 070607Image 10-12. The farm pond you mention was removed during the mining process prior to the field investigation. The 7.5' Bucktown Quad dated 1957 does not show the pond as existing. The 1988 photo revision does show the pond in purple indicating that the pond was built between 1957 and 1988. This quad does not indicate the dashed line stream you mentioned on the original photo or the photo revision.

2. Regarding the response to question 3 (S-311) of the information request:

- The map provided shows impacts to segment RD01E01S in early 2009, but the table says that it is "not currently affected". Has this segment been impacted or not?

Segment RD01E01S was impacted along 713 feet beginning in February 09 and ending in May 09.

- Segment RD03S does not include dates affected, but 1515 feet of stream are listed as affected in the answer 3, S-311 table. Was this segment impacted? If so, when?

Segment RD03S has not been impacted. The length given as already affected was wrong.

Tables for Currently Affected and Future Affected have been revised. The revisions reflect the changes noted above and the earliest possible future mining date was changed where applicable to August 10 as noted in the index under Response 4.

3. When Melissa Gebien of our office visited the Freelandville Complex in August of last year, Triad mentioned that biological sampling (macroinvertebrates, etc.) was conducted at the site, but they had not yet seen the results. We would like a copy of the report associated with the sampling events for our records.

Attached is the Final Report by: Mark Pyron, Ph.D. and Jayson Beugly, M.S. Aquatic Biology and Fisheries Center, Department of Biology Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306